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MY BLAIR ANCESTRY AND KINDRED

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BY

ALBERT BLAIR

OF ST. LOUIS, MO.

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Blair, A
My Blair ancestry and kindred

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FOREWORD.

St. Louis, Mo., July 28th, 1926.

During the last three or four years I have frequently received letters from strangers, as well as relatives, asking some question respecting my Blair ancestry. In several instances the inquirer was someone desirous of joining the order known as the "Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution." Moreover, there has been organized and incorporated at Erie, Pennsylvania, a society called the "Blair Research Association," to which I am expected to transmit some account of my family history. To be in a position to give promptly an adequate reply in such cases, I have decided to prepare a comprehensive statement and make copies thereof. I hope the present document may be found correct and satisfactory. Should any error appear, I shall be glad to note a correction.

Albert Blair.

BLAIR ANCESTRY.

The Blairs were early settlers in Pike County, Illinois. The chief Blair pioneer was my grandfather, William Montgomery Blair. A local history speaks of him as a "Minister of the New Light Faith," whatever that may have been. I think he had adopted the religious doctrines of Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone and others who were popular evangelists in Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri about that time. Anyway, my grandfather was devoted in his religious faith and practice. He lived on a farm a mile southwest of the town of Barry, Pike County, Illinois. His sons Harvey and Samuel lived in the neighborhood. His sons William and Montgomery lived in Kinderhook, a village six miles west of Barry. His sons John and George had moved to northwest Missouri and settled in what was then called the "Platte Purchase." His only daughter, Amanda, the wife of Robert Davis, had died, leaving three sons, Perry, Calvin and Samuel. Robert Davis enlisted as a soldier in an Illinois regiment to go to the Mexican War, but died before he reached Mexico.

I was born in the town of Kinderhook, Pike County, Illinois, six miles west of Barry, on the 16th of October, 1840. My father, William, and his brother Montgomery owned a country store in Kinderhook, which was managed chiefly by my uncle Montgomery. My father was active in politics and was elected on the Democratic ticket to the State Legislature and served therein as the representative of Pike County

in the years 1844 and 1845. He died suddenly at Springfield, the state capital, in the year 1845. A few months later my grandfather, William Montgomery Blair, died. I faintly remember seeing him on his deathbed. My uncle Montgomery closed out the store business in Kinderhook and moved to Barry, and continued there as a merchant for many years.

After my father's death my mother bought the farm on which my grandfather Blair had been living and moved to it, which place continued to be her home during her long life. Two years after the death of my father she became the wife of James R. Williams, a farmer, who managed the farm where my mother lived until his death in 1896. My mother survived him one year. On this farm are the graves of my grandfather, William Montgomery Blair, and his wife, Martha Quiet Blair. The original gravestones having fallen down, I caused, last year, a granite block to be set up in their place.

My grandfather, William Montgomery Blair, was born in Berkley County, Virginia, May 25, 1778. He died in 1845. His wife, Martha Quiet, a native of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, died in 1842. My great-grandfather was John Blair. The first information I had of him was given to me by my uncle, Montgomery Blair. On one occasion, when I was a young man, I said to him: "Your name is Montgomery, your father's name was William Montgomery and there is a Montgomery Blair, a distinguished lawyer of Baltimore, who was Postmaster General in President Lincoln's Cabinet. Where did the name of

Montgomery come from?" His reply was substantially as follows: "I do not know where they got it, but I do know where we got it. My grandfather was John Blair, a soldier in the American Revolution. He took part in the expedition to Quebec which was commanded by General Richard Montgomery. General Montgomery was killed in the attack at Quebec and thereupon became in public estimate such a hero that the name of Montgomery became popular. John Blair named his oldest son William Montgomery Blair." My uncle also said that John Blair was a member of a company of riflemen commanded by General Daniel Morgan. The historical facts, as I subsequently learned from the Archives of the State of Pennsylvania, Volume Fifteen, are that one of the expeditions to Quebec, the one under the command of General Benedict Arnold, was organized by General Washington at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the summer of 1775. He decided to put in the advance three companies of riflemen, namely, a company commanded by Captain Daniel Morgan of Winchester, Virginia; a company commanded by Captain Hendricks of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in which company John Blair was enrolled, and another company from Pennsylvania commanded by Captain Smith, the three companies to constitute a vanguard under Captain Morgan; so that my uncle was correct in one sense in saying that my grandfather was a soldier under General Daniel Morgan.

The names of the soldiers and officers from Pennsylvania who took part in General Arnold's expedi-

tion to Quebec are given in the Fifteenth Volume of the Archives of Pennsylvania. In that volume may be found a full and interesting account of the expedition to Quebec, written by Judge John James Henry of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He tells how, in the assault of the Colonial troops on the British fort at Quebec, General Montgomery was killed, Captain Hendricks was killed, Captain Daniel Morgan wounded, and John Blair and others taken prisoners by the British. The prisoners were kept at Quebec until the following summer, when they were sent to New York in a prison ship. Soon thereafter John Blair and Surgeon Gibson, by a shrewd maneuver, effected their escape. The following statement of this incident is taken from Judge Henry's account:

> "The Battle of Long Island, on the 27th of August, had been unsuccessfully fought by our troops, many of whom were prisoners. In such hurrying times intercourse between hostile armies in the way of confirmation upon any point is effected with difficulty.
>
> "We had waited patiently several weeks to be disembarked on our own shore, yet tantalized every day with reports that tomorrow we should be put on shore; some, and, in a little while, all, began to fear it was the intention of General Howe to detain us as prisoners in opposition to the good will of Sir Guy Carleton. This notion had so strongly impressed the mind of my friend Dr. Thomas Gibson and a young man called John

Blair, of Hendricks, that they determined to escape from the ship. They were both of them athletic and able-bodied men and most adroit. Gibson planned the manner of escape; its ingeniousness, hazard, boldness of execution and eventual success received the applause of all, but was disapproved, upon the principle that it trenched upon their honor and would impede our release. The story is this:

"Gibson and Blair, in the evening, dressed in shirts and trousers, were upon the main deck with their customary flopped hats on their heads. Gibson gave me a squeeze of the hand in token of farewell. He was greeted kindly, for he was the brother of my soul. He and his companion went to the forecastle, where there were two large New Foundland dogs, each of which had his associate, or rather his partisans, among the crew. These the adventurers hissed. The dogs, being engaged in their usual fury, attracted the attention of the sailors and many of the prisoners. They took this opportunity of stripping and letting themselves down at the bow into the water. Leaning over the sides of the ship, in company of some friends in the secret, and unregardful of the dogs, we waited the management of the flight.

"The last lighted cloud appeared low in the west. Something extraordinary passed along the side, and a foolish fellow asked, 'What is that?' 'A wave, you fool—a mere deception of sight,' was answered. It was the head of Gibson, cov-

ered by his large black hat—his white skin discovered him, and luckily the attention of the 'ignoramus' was engaged another way.

"These daring men swam to the barge at the stern, entered it, and slipped the rope. They had rowed a thousand yards before the boat was missed. The other boats of our ship and those near us were dispatched after the runaways, but it was too late. The fugitives had too much of a start to be easily overtaken. They landed (having rowed about five miles), naked, in our own country somewhere in the vicinity of Bergen-neck, and bartered the boat for some ordinary clothing. They waited on General Washington, who disapproved of their demeanor."

John Blair's escape from the prison ship occurred in September of 1876, and, as his oldest son was born in May, 1878, it is not probable that he re-enlisted in the army. John Blair's wife was Susannah Ewing. Tradition is that she was born in Ireland, possibly in or near the part of Ireland chiefly occupied by the Scotch-Irish. At the time of the birth of my grandfather William Montgomery they were living in Berkley County, Virginia. They moved to the Kentucky country in 1790 and settled in Bourbon County. From the date of my grandfather's birth, 1778, until 1790, no doubt, some of the other children of John and Susannah were born in Virginia, but I am unable to state which ones. In

1776?
1778?

Kentucky, John Blair owned a farm on Taylors Creek in Bourbon County. Not far away in the same county was the farm and home of James Quiet, whose daughter Martha my grandfather married in the year 1796. In the records of Bourbon County, Kentucky, I found a copy of the will of James Quiet in which he gave a small legacy to his daughter Martha Quiet Blair, wife of grandfather William Montgomery Blair.

There were born in Kentucky to my grandparents William Montgomery and Martha Blair four sons: John, James, Harvey and Samuel. After their birth my grandfather, in 1806, moved from Kentucky to the "Chillicothe country." My uncle Montgomery was born in Ohio in 1809, his sister Amanda about 1810, my father, William, in 1812, and his brother George in 1815, whether in Ohio or in Indiana I do not know —probably in Ohio. My cousin Calvin Davis, second son of Amanda Blair Davis, told me on one occasion that he was born in Fountain County, Indiana. In the second or third decade of the nineteenth century there occurred a real estate boom in the towns along the Wabash—Terre Haute, for example—on the theory that the Federal Government was going to make an appropriation for the improvement of the Wabash River so as to make it navigable.

In the year 1828 my grandfather (Blair) moved to Pike County, Illinois. His sons came, and his son-in-law, Robert Davis, and wife. His oldest son, John Blair, and his youngest son, George, did not remain long in Pike County. They went to Iowa and later settled in the "Platte Purchase" in the northwest cor-

ner of Missouri. Grandfather's son James died, I believe, soon after they came to Illinois.

In the year 1896 the city of Chillicothe celebrated its centennial year. That year I made my first effort to verify family tradition that my father was a native of Chillicothe, Ohio. I went to Chillicothe and spent one day there. The fact was that I did not know where or how to find evidence on that subject. Someone in Chillicothe told me that Mr. McClintock, a retired lawyer of that city, had given much attention to local history. I called upon him and made known the purpose of my visit. At once he asked me to give an account of my ancestors so far as I knew. The substance of what I told him he noted down in a memorandum book. At the conclusion of my statement he said he knew where I came from; that my great-grandfather John Blair had moved from Pennsylvania to Virginia; that he had seen a deed of land which John Blair owned. Such, in substance, was all that I learned from Mr. McClintock.

Twenty-two years later I decided to go to Bourbon County, Kentucky, and examine the records there. Tradition existed that my great-grandfather had moved from Virginia to Bourbon County, Kentucky, and from Kentucky to Chillicothe, Ohio. So in the summer of 1918 I spent a week in Bourbon, Fleming and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky. I soon found in the real estate records at Bourbon County a copy of a conveyance from John Blair and his wife Susannah, also copy of will of James Quiet, who made therein a gift to Martha Blair, my grandmother. My great-

grandfather's farm was situated on Taylors Creek. Near to John Blair's land on Taylor Creek was land which belonged to another John Blair, who lived in Fleming County. (See page 18.)

In the year 1787 the State of Virginia gave to the Federal Government her interest in the great domain known as the Northwest Territory, reserving the right of locating therein grants of bounty lands which she might make to such of her citizens who had served in the Revolutionary War. It embraced a part of the State of Ohio, all of Indiana, Illinois and parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota. The Surveyor General of Virginia, Nathaniel Massey, was appointed Surveyor General of the new territories. After his work was done he was given a large tract of land situated along the Sciota River. In the year 1796 he founded the town of Chillicothe, Ohio. Next in prominence as a surveyor of public lands was Lucas Sullivant, with whom John Blair, my ancestor, himself a surveyor, was more or less associated. Sullivant was a native of Kentucky and a surveyor by profession. In 1797 he laid out the town of Franklinton, situated on the west bank of the Sciota River. Prior to that date he had been appointed assistant to Colonel Anderson, who had charge of the United States land office at Louisville, Kentucky, and thereafter made surveys in the Virginia Military District west of the Sciota River. In 1801 he sold a house and lot in Franklinton to John Blair. (See Record of Deeds, Chillicothe, Ohio.)

In 1806 William Montgomery Blair, with his wife

and four sons, John, James, Harvey and Samuel, moved from their home in Bourbon County, Kentucky, to the Chillicothe country. Just where I have not learned. I remember hearing my uncle Harvey Blair tell of the journey which he made with his father and mother in moving from Kentucky to the Chillicothe country. There were no roads. They traveled by horseback and their household goods and supplies were carried on pack animals. The father carried the baby (Samuel) and Harvey rode behind his mother on the same horse. He said he often looked back to see if there were any signs of Indians following them.

Three or four years ago I decided to go again to Chillicothe to see what I could ascertain. In the real estate records of Chillicothe, I found copies of two deeds by John Blair conveying property in the township of Franklinton. In those deeds the name of my great grandmother Susannah appeared. I asked some of the county officers where in the county of Ross the township of Franklinton was situated. None of them knew; said there was no such township in Ross County. I spent several hours in trying to find information on that point. I finally left the county offices and went to the Public Library. On the second afternoon after looking through a History of Ross County without success, I picked up by chance, a small volume entitled "The History of Franklin County" and learned that Franklinton was a part of the city of Columbus. In this history of Franklin County I soon found the

name of John Blair spoken of as "Captain John Blair." There was a copy of an order of the county court ordering the construction of a public road from Columbus to Springfield and it was directed that "Captain John Blair" should have charge of the work. I further found that John Blair was a representative of the City of Columbus in the State Legislature in the years 1809 and 1810.

From the History of Franklin County by William T. Martin published in Columbus by Follett, Foster & Company, 1858, and also from the History of Franklin and Pickaway County by Williams Brothers, 1880, I have learned the following facts pertaining to the Blair lineage:

In 1803, the County of Franklin was organized from the territory taken from the north end of Ross County (in which Chillicothe is situated), and Franklinton was made the county seat. The courthouse in Franklinton was erected in 1807 by Lucas Sullivant, contractor. In 1824 the county seat was removed to Columbus. The capital of Ohio was changed from Chillicothe to Columbus in the year 1816.

Page 46. The name of John Blair appears as one of the first Board of County Commissioners of the new county of Franklin, 1804. It also appears that he was Clerk of the Board for the first year. Also that in the year 1808 and 1809 John Blair was a member of the State Legislature. The capital of the state at that time was at Chillicothe, Ohio. It also appears that John Blair was foreman of the Grand

Jury. Among the first settlers of Franklinton, says Martin in his history, were Joseph Dickson, George Skidmore, the Deardurffs, the Sells, John Blair and others. In the lobby of Memorial Hall, Broad Street, Columbus, there is a marble tablet containing a list of some of the pioneers of Franklin County, among them, that of John Blair, 1800, Madison Township.

Mrs. Heistand-Moore, of Philadelphia, who prior to her recent death devoted much of her time during the last ten years to an investigation of the history of numerous Blair families, as well as myself and perhaps others, were puzzled for a time in the matter of identifying (our) John Blair, a Revolutionary soldier, with some particular regiment of the Continental Army and as a member of my branch of the Blair families. The difficulty arose from the fact that there were several John Blairs listed in the Continental Army. I have taken particular pains to satisfy myself upon this point. The result is that I find that there were six John Blairs who were soldiers in the American Revolution.

(1) Our John Blair, a private in Captain Hendricks' Company of riflemen from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. He was captured in the assault by General Richard Montgomery on the British Fort at Quebec, Heights of Abraham, on December 31, 1775. Was taken prisoner and sent in a prison ship to New York in the year 1776. In conjunction with Surgeon Gibson he effected his escape as related by Judge Henry in Volume Fifteen

of the Archives of Pennsylvania. I have not been able to learn when he was born, nor when and where he died.

(2) John Blair, the oldest son of Alexander and Elizabeth Cochran Blair. Born in Pennsylvania in the year 1756. In the year 1776 he was a private in Captain McLain's Company of the Sixth Penn. Battalion and took part in the Battle of "Three Rivers" in Canada, was captured with others of his company, including Col. William Irvine, and sent to Quebec, where he was held as a prisoner until March, 1777, when he was released by exchange. In July of that year he returned to Pennsylvania and re-enlisted in the Seventh Penn. Infantry and was made Second Lieutenant in Captain Parker's Company. In 1779 he resigned. In the Battle of Three Rivers he was wounded by a musket ball. For a number of years after the war he was engaged in transporting emigrants from Fort Pitt to Limerock, Kentucky. There appears to be some evidence as to what become of him and as to his descendants in a letter written by Morris William Blair, grandson of William Blair of Kossuth, Iowa. In a letter dated December 8, 1899, and addressed to Miss Gertrude Blair, daughter of Hon. John G. Blair of Carlyle, Kentucky, Morris William Blair says:

> "I am glad to get the data you gave me. * * * But our Alexander was older than yours. His son William was born (Lancaster County) third son, John and Thomas being older. They were in Cumberland County during the war. The father and sons are named as taking part.

John, whose descendants I am hoping to find in you, engaged in guarding and assisting emigrants from Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) to the mouth of the Limerock (Kentucky) and afterwards settled in Flemmingsburg, Kentucky."

The above extract was sent to me by Mrs. Heistand-Moore who probably received it from Miss Gertrude Blair of Carlyle, Kentucky.

His father and mother (Alexander Blair and Elizabeth Cochrane) are often referred to as the Blair-Cochrane Branch of the Blair family. His brother, William Blair, younger than John, was a notable soldier, having served not only in the American Revolution but in a campaign against the Indians. After the death of his father in 1779, William and his mother moved to the Chillicothe country. Later he moved to Schuyler County, Illinois. In the Recorder's Office of that county is a declaration of William Blair dated in the year 1832. Later he moved to Iowa and settled at Kossuth, Iowa, where he died in the year 1840. The State of Iowa caused to be erected to his memory in the Capital a bronze tablet certifying that he was the first Revolutionary soldier to be buried in the State of Iowa. He was an ancestor of E. W. Blair of Joplin, Missouri, and his son, David E. Blair, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Missouri.

(3) There was a John Blair, a member of a New Jersey line who was wounded in the Battle of Germantown. Under the pension act of 1812 he was

pensioned from April, 1811. He became a resident of Washington County, State of Tennessee. (The above statement is based on a letter from the Commissioner of Pensions, Selzgarber, dated May 5, 1920.) His wife was named Susanna. He had eight children. Four were named as follows: John, Martha, Ann and William. The names of the other children are not given. Two hundred acres of land were given him by the Government. He died July 13, 1818.

As his wife was named Susanna, it has been suggested that this John Blair may have been my John Blair. I dissent from that view upon the following grounds: first, he had eight children. Four were named as follows: John, Martha Ann and William. My ancestor John had no child named Martha or Ann. In the second place I do not think our John Blair re-enlisted. His escape from the prison ship was a violation of the parole given by him to the British at Quebec. It was upon this ground that his escape was disapproved by General Washington. The battle of Germantown was fought on October 4, 1777. By that time our John Blair had married Susanna Ewing for we know that his son William Montgomery was born on the 25th of May, 1778. John Blair must have married as early as August, 1777, so that he was a married man on the 4th of October, 1777, when the Battle of Germantown was fought and he probably lived in Berkley County, Virginia.

(4) John Blair, first-lieutenant, Continental Ar-

tillery (Virginia), January, 1777. Was wounded at the Battle of Camden, New Jersey, August 16, 1778, and died on the 18th of August, 1778. (See Hettman's List of Revolutionary Soldiers.)

(5) John Blair, Ninth Virginia Regiment, died March 5, 1777. (See Hettman's List of Revolutionary Soldiers.)

(6) Among the soldiers recruited in Kentucky by General Clark there was a John Blair. He marched with General Clark's Regiment to St. Louis, thence to Vincennes, Indiana, where was fought a battle with the Indians and British.

There was a John Blair who owned land on Taylor's Creek in Bourbon County, now in Nicholas County, I have no evidence that he was a soldier in the American Revolution, unless he was the John Blair No. 2 above mentioned. His wife was Eleanor Hamilton, sister of Col. Hamilton, who is said to have been either a Tory or a British officer. This John Blair and his wife are buried in Andrews Burying Grounds near Flemmingsburg, Flemming County, Kentucky. Two cedar trees, it was said, mark the place of their burial. At the time of my visit to that part of Kentucky (1921) I called to see Miss Frances Blair, an aged lady nearly ninety years old, living about four miles north of the town of Ewing in Flemming County. She was the granddaughter of that John Blair. She had in her possession his family Bible. I asked her whether he had ever been a Revolutionary soldier. She said she had never

heard that he had been a soldier. He died before Miss Frances was born.

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN BLAIR.

He had six sons and one daughter. The oldest son was William Montgomery. Particulars as to his life and family will be given further on. The second son was James; date of birth and death not known. He moved to Pike County, Illinois, about the time his brother William Montgomery settled there. The third son, John, moved to Pike County, Illinois, and was a Justice of the Peace. No data as to his birth or death. The fourth son, Samuel, married Miss Frances McNutt of Columbus, Ohio, on the 21st day of August, 1805. Moved to Pike County, Illinois, and died in 1828. George, the fifth son, married Miss Lackey of St. Louis, moved to Texas and owned a farm on the Guadalupe River. Michael, the youngest son of John Blair, was born in Kentucky in 1794. It is presumed that he was taken by his parents to Ohio in the early part of the Nineteenth Century and that he moved to the Wabash country and afterwards to Pike County, Illinois, when his older brothers made their move to that country. He married Jane McNutt, sister of Frances McNutt whom his brother Samuel married in 1805 in Columbus. There seems to have been an affinity between the Blairs and the McNutts. Besides these two marriages, Susannah Blair, his only daughter, became the wife of a McNutt. In the next generation, Harvey Blair married Susan McNutt, and in the

following generation his son Thomas married Adaline McNutt.

Michael Blair, after coming to Pike County with his brothers, located on a farm on Pigeon Creek north of Kinderhook on the road to Quincy. I remember seeing him there when I was not more than four years old. His granddaughter, Mrs. Georgiana Echols, in a letter dated December 25, 1918, to Mrs. Heistand-Moore, stated that her grandfather Michael Blair in 1849 moved to Texas and located on the Guadalupe River near where his brother George had located twenty-five years before that time. Afterwards he moved from Texas to Oregon City, Oregon, and from there to the Sacramento Valley in 1858. He died July 28, 1850. Mrs. Echols stated that he joined the Latter Day Saints. According to Mrs. Echols' statement, the children of Michael were as follows: Harrison, Mary, Nancy, James Carlton, Talrton, Priscilla, Asher, Joanna and Josephine. She stated that after the death of Michael in California his sons Harrison, James (her father) and Tarlton in 1858 moved to Utah. At last accounts Mrs. Echols was living in Glenbar, Arizona.

CHILDREN OF WILLIAM MONTGOMERY BLAIR.

John Newton Blair.

John Newton Blair, oldest son of William Montgomery Blair, was born on July 4, 1799, in Bourbon

County, Kentucky. In 1806 he moved with his parents to Ohio and later moved to Indiana. In 1824 he married Lovica Billings at Terre Haute. In 1828 he moved to Pike County, Illinois. He afterward moved to Des Moines, Iowa, and later moved to Northwest Missouri. In 1834 Lovica Billings died. In February, 1836, at Atlas, Pike County, Illinois, he married a second time. The wife's name was Irene Hughes Smith. By his first wife there was born to him at Terre Haute Maria and Uriah, twins (1825), in 1827 his son James, in 1830 Eliza, in 1832 Mary Ann and in 1834 Martha. By his second wife there was born Samuel Lemuel in 1837, in 1840 Emily, in 1842 John Francis, Sophia in 1845, in 1849 William Paris Montgomery, who is still living at Mulvane, Kansas. In 1849 Uncle John Blair started on a journey to California, but died on the way and was buried in Carson Valley in July, 1849.

Maria, oldest daughter of John Newton Blair, born March 2, 1825, was married to Louis McIntyre in 1846. In 1851 McIntyre was drowned in a voyage from California. Their two children were William G. McIntyre, born in 1847 and died on November 7, 1924, and Louis McIntyre, born in 1849 and now living in Craig, Missouri. In 1853 Maria was married to Charles Palmer. To this couple were born four children: George Palmer, deceased; Mollie E. Palmer (1858); Alvira Palmer (1859), deceased, and Lina Palmer (1865). Maria died in the year 1911 (April 2). Surviving her are her daughters, Miss Mollie E. Palmer of Craig, Missouri, and Mrs. Lina Osborne

of Kansas City, the latter being a widow. Mrs. Osborne has a daughter, Mrs. Lucille Osborne Rust, a widow, and Inez Osborne Potter.

Uriah was born in March, 1825, and died in 1909. In 1858 he married Evelin Mackey. Their children are: Alice, Calvin C., Mary E., Frank and Eva. Alice married Henry Armack; Calvin C. married Lena Thierirolf and lives in Beloit, Kansas; Mary E. is the wife of Henry L. Pope and lives in Kansas City, Missouri; Frank married Viola Borst and lives in Idaho. Eva lives in Mound City, Missouri. Each of the first four children of Uriah Blair have four children.

James Quiet Blair.

James Quiet Blair, unmarried, died in 1825, before the family came to Illinois. This according to chart prepared by Mrs. Heistand-Moore.

Harvey Blair.

Harvey Blair, the third son of William Montgomery Blair, was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky, on May 7, 1803. He moved with his parents to the Chillicothe country in 1806 and afterwards to the Wabash country and finally to Pike County, Illinois. In due time he married Susannah McNutt and settled on a farm adjoining that of his father, one mile south of Barry, where he lived until December 5, 1879, the date of his death. The following children were born to them: Alfred, Culbertson, Mary Jane, Sylvester,

Thomas, Sarah Frances, John, Montgomery and Catherine.

Alfred's first wife was Adelaide Hart. His second wife was Sallie Bagby. Both are dead. They are buried, I am told, near Mound City, Missouri. No children. *Culbertson* married Ellen Gilmore. They had one son, Charles A., and three daughters, Emma, Frances and Mamie. Charles married Miss Clark of Clark County, Missouri. At last accounts he was living in California, near Long Beach. Frances became the wife of Mr. Baird of Red Oak, Iowa. Emma and Mamie are both dead. *Sylvester* married Miss Lewis of New Canton, Illinois, and had two sons, William and Thomas. I do not know whether they are living. *Mary Jane* became the wife of Orlando Hart and lived for many years about four miles southwest of Barry. Both are dead. Their children were as follows: Sons, John, Alfred and Charles; daughters, Ella, Catherine, Jeanette and Lena. John, Alfred and Catherine are dead. Charles married Anna Jennings and lives four miles southwest of Barry. Ella married William Morey and lives in Quincy, Illinois (432 North Fifth street). Jeanette and Lena both married Cards and both live in New Canton, Pike County, Illinois. *Sarah Frances* became the wife of David Woodruff. She is not now living. Their daughter Susannah became the wife of Charles Repshaw and lives in Deer Trail, Colorado. Their daughter Frances became the wife of E. E. Sellars. They live at 916 West Thirtieth street, Los Angeles, California. *Thomas,* who was about my age, enlisted in the

Ninety-ninth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers and took part in the siege of Vicksburg. He married Adline McNutt. On July 9th, 1879, he died suddenly in the harvest field on his farm near Barry, Illinois. His wife Adline is dead. Mrs. Anna L. Ellers, Thomas' daughter, a widow, lives in Quincy, Illinois, with her daughter, Mrs. Georgia Ellers Morey. Thomas' son Charles died in 1903 in Barry, Illinois. His son Howard Blair lives in Quincy, Illinois. *Montgomery* married Martha Craig. Their children were Harry and Gertrude. The mother died before the children were grown. A few years later Montgomery moved to Missouri and married a second time. They lived near Clarence, Missouri. *Catherine* married Mr. Ward. Her son Irving lives in Granite City, Illinois.

Samuel Blair.

Samuel Blair, the fourth son of William Montgomery Blair, was born October 1, 1806. Shortly thereafter his father moved to the Ohio country and finally moved to Pike County, Illinois. In 1830 Samuel married Lucy Ann Brewster. He settled on a farm southwest of Barry, in Pike County, and remained there the rest of his life. He died April 9th in the year 1884. By his first wife he had three daughters: Louisa, Ellen and Amanda. The mother died before the daughters were grown. A few years later Louisa became the wife of Nathaniel Hart and lived for many years on a farm about a half a mile west of Barry. Ellen died before she was grown. Amanda became the wife of Allen

Urton. She and her husband died many years ago. Her son, Nathan Urton, lives in Hannibal, Missouri.

Uncle Samuel Blair on March 13, 1851, married a second time, taking as his wife Mrs. Eliza Gose Gilmer. There were born to them the following children: Sons, Calvin D., William S. and George C.; daughters, Lucina A., Alta C. and Martha Q. The oldest son, Calvin, married Dora M. Blake. They had a son named Calvin R. Blair. The father and son are dead. Alta C. Blair became the wife of George W. Smith. To this couple were born George L. Smith, deceased; Ida D. Smith, who became Mrs. Borthwick, and a son, William Blair Smith. George C. Blair married Nancy Kelly. George died several years ago, leaving two children, Alice L. and Georgia, both of whom are deceased. The remaining children of Uncle Samuel are Lucina Blair and Martha Q. Blair, both unmarried. All of the surviving children reside in Pike County or Barry, Illinois.

Referring to cousin Louisa Blair Hart above mentioned, I note that she left two sons, George B. and William N., and three daughters, Lucy, Anna and Clara B. George married Nona Seigler: William married Isabella Lippincott. Both couples live in Barry. The daughter, Lucy, became the wife of William White. They live in the State of Washington. Anna, the wife of William Wagar, lives in Barry. Clara became the wife of Moses Morey and lives in Quincy, Illinois.

For further information address Miss Lucina A. Blair of Barry, Pike County, Illinois.

Montgomery Blair.

Montgomery Blair, the fifth son of William Montgomery Blair, was born in the year 1809. He lived and worked with his father until after his father had moved to Pike County, Illinois. In the year 18— he married Mrs. Ann Jackson of Pleasantvale, Pike County, Illinois, the widow of Henry Jackson, brother of my maternal grandfather, Joseph Jackson, who had settled in Pleasantvale Township in 1824. Uncle Montgomery and my father some time in the thirties had located at Kinderhook, Pike County. They not only bought farming land situated between Kinderhook and Pleasantvale, but they also bought upon credit from a Mr. Churchill a stock of merchandise in Kinderhook and thereupon opened a retail store in that town. Money was scarce in those days, so country merchants were obliged to sell on credit and trust to getting their pay from farmers on the maturity of their crops. After the purchase of this stock of goods my uncle and my father each autumn would employ men in the timber near the river to build flatboats, load them with produce and float them to New Orleans, where the produce was sold, money received, groceries bought in New Orleans, dry goods in St. Louis, and then shipped to Pike County on a steamboat.

Shortly after the death of my father in 1845 my uncle Montgomery lost not only his son Warren, but his wife. My uncle in due time married a second time, his wife being Mary Ann Gilham, whose family

lived near Pleasantvale. After the death of my father uncle Montgomery discontinued business in Kinderhook and moved to Barry and opened a merchandise establishment and engaged in the business of pork packing. After the death of uncle Robert Davis, Calvin and Samuel Davis were taken into business by my uncle Montgomery. They continued with him for years until he retired, and then succeeded him in the ownership of the business. In the meantime my uncle lost his second wife and married a third time. His third wife was Miss Nancy Jennings, daughter of Tyra Jennings, a native of South Carolina and a man of prominence in the community. Uncle's third wife bore him a son, George M., who was born in the year 1856 and who is still surviving. My uncle was married the fourth time, his last wife being Miss Martha Hillman. His death occurred in 1884, leaving his wife and only surviving son, George M. Blair. My uncle Montgomery was my guardian and aided me in my education by giving me the benefit of a scholarship in Christian University of Canton, Missouri, to which he had subscribed. His son George M. lives in Jacksonville, Illinois. George has a son, George M. Blair, living in Quincy, Illinois, practicing medicine. Another son, McKendree Blair, recently married, is a student at some theological institution in Boston, intending to become a minister. Cousin George has at home a daughter, Marian, unmarried. Uncle Montgomery was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Illinois held in 1847.

Amanda Blair.

Amanda, the only daughter of my grandfather Blair, was born probably around the year 1810. She became the wife of Robert Davis before the Blairs came to Pike County. I remember hearing cousin Calvin Davis say that he was born in Indiana; probably it was in Fountain County. Amanda had three sons, Perry, Calvin and Samuel. She died before my earliest recollection. Uncle Robert Davis volunteered as a soldier to serve in the Mexican War, but the company in which he enlisted in Pike County was not accepted; so he went to Alton and joined a company there. He died on the road to Mexico. One of the sons, Perry, lived at our house for a time after my father's death. Later he went elsewhere for a year or so and later returned and married Mrs. Shipman, a widow, of New Canton, and thereafter made that town his home. For a number of years he owned and conducted a country store in New Canton, Illinois. He had two children. His daughter Eva became the wife of Dr. McComas of New Canton. He had a son Charles, who, I believe, moved to Portland, Oregon. Perry died in the year 18—.

The second son of Uncle Robert Davis was Calvin. After the death of his mother he lived first with his grandfather Blair and then after my father's death he lived with my mother until her marriage to Mr. James R. Williams. During the hostilities arising out of the Mexican War there was organized the Doniphan Expedition. Calvin Davis enlisted and marched to

Santa Fe, but did not encounter an engagement with the enemy. On his return to Barry he was given a place in my uncle Montgomery's store. In due time he became a partner. He married Miss Lucina Babcock and was reasonably prosperous. Calvin was the father of ten children, namely: Ida, now widow of Edward Brown, Barry, Illinois; Charles, deceased; Gertrude, deceased; Caroline, unmarried, living at Barry, Illinois; Nell, wife of Gus White, Urbana, Illinois; Robert and his wife, Ella Barney, living at Spokane, Washington; George and his wife, Maude Blake, living at Barry, Illinois; Leonore, widow of Newton Harvey, living at Spokane, Washington; Harry C. (his wife, Helen Digby, deceased) an officer of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company of New York (Harry C. Davis has two daughters, Isabel and Margaret, with whom I am related by a twofold bond of kinship. Their paternal great-grandmother, Amanda Blair Davis, was my father's sister. Their maternal great-grandmather, Lucinda Jackson Digby, was my mother's sister); Maude, wife of Dale Rohrig, living at Winchester, Illinois.

Samuel, the third son of Robert Davis, also became a partner in the firm of Blair & Davis. In the course of a few years he married Clara Hart, daughter of a prominent settler in Pike County. Samuel died many years ago and Clara died last year. Their children, eight in number, were as follows: Douglas, deceased; Clara Isabell, deceased; Ernest, deceased; Daniel, deceased; Lelia May, who is now Mrs. John C. Moon, wife of a prominent manufacturer in St. Louis, Mis-

souri; Nathaniel, who is living in Barry, Illinois, formerly engaged in the hardware business; Anna Marie, who is now Mrs. Charles W. Allen, residing at Barry, Illinois, and Samuel C., living at Barry, Illinois.

William Blair.

William Blair, my father, the sixth son of William Montgomery Blair, was born on the 24th day of July, 1812. He came with his parents to Pike County, Illinois, in 1828. In 1832 the Black Hawk War took place, due to the depredations of the Sacs and Foxes, two Indian tribes inhabiting reservations in Iowa and Minnesota. A company from Pike County in which my father was a soldier took part in the campaign. The trouble was soon suppressed. It was in this campaign that Captain Abraham Lincoln with his company rendered military service. Following that experience my father spent a season at the lead mines at Galena, Illinois. On the first day of May, 1835, he married Mary Jackson, oldest daughter of Joseph Jackson of Pleasantvale, Pike County, Illinois, whose ancestor, a Jackson from London, was a pioneer settler at Newton, Mass. For two or three years my parents lived upon and cultivated a tract of land situated about midway between Kinderhook and Pleasantvale. The next business move my father made was to join his brother Montgomery in buying wholly on credit from a Mr. Churchill a stock of merchandise situated in Kinderhook. So they moved to Kinderhook and made

it their home. My father had a talent for public speaking and a taste for politics. In Pike County there has ever been a strong bias in favor of the Democratic party. My father soon became a party leader, and was twice elected to the General Assembly of Illinois. In the winter of 1845 he was unusually active in his official work, having in hand a bill providing for the creation of a new county. He was suddenly stricken ill and died on the 19th day of February, 1845. His grave is in the old burying ground on the bluff overlooking the town of Kinderhook. For many years after his death I would often hear expressions from his contemporaries of their high opinion of his ability and personal merit. I hope I may be pardoned for relating one such expression not made in my presence. When I was a student at Harvard my chum was Francis A. Marden, a capable student and a strong Democrat. He was from New Hampshire and was well acquainted with ex-President Franklin Pierce of that state. One Saturday night Marden stayed in Boston till a late hour. When he came to our room he proceeded to tell me what an interesting evening he had had. Hearing that ex-President Pierce was spending the evening at the Hotel Revere, he called to see him and met the ex-President, who was surrounded by a number of his old friends. Among others was Colonel William A. Richardson of Quincy, Illinois, one time Speaker of the House of Representatives. Marden had a conversation with Col. Richardson and happened incidentally to tell him of his chum being from Pike

County, Illinois. Col. Richardson, on learning my name and the name of my father, said that he was well acquainted with William Blair, and among other things stated that William Blair was the ablest presiding officer he had ever known. From a man of so large a public experience the statement may well be regarded as highly complimentary.

There were born to my parents five children, four daughters and one son. In 1836, Sophia; 1838, Emily; 1840, Albert; 1842, Lucinda Jane, and in 1844, Anna. Emily died in infancy. Lucinda Jane died in 1845. My sister Sophia had what may be well regarded as a useful and happy life. Her health was good and she received from her mother excellent domestic training. Her scholarship was promoted by attending Miss Catherine Beecher's School at Quincy, Illinois; Professor Kimball's School, Keokuk, Iowa, and finally the Methodist College at Jacksonville, Illinois. In 1863 she became the wife of Dr. John A. Thomas of Pleasant Hill, Pike County, Illinois, where she resided the rest of her life. She died in 1809, leaving three sons, Albert J., William S. and Clarence C. Albert died about twelve years ago, leaving a widow and three children. They now live at El Paso, Illinois. Her son William S. married and has lived in St. Louis for thirty years. He has been an officer in two or three manufacturing companies. Her son Clarence, unmarried, is cashier of Citizens Bank, Pleasant Hill, Pike County, Illinois.

Albert Blair, the only son of William Blair, was born October 16, 1840, in Kinderhook, Pike County,

*My sister Anna, in several respects, the most attractive of my mother's children, was educated at Jacksonville and Monticello Seminaries. In 1866 she

Illinois. After his father's death in 1845 he was taken by his mother to her new home near Barry, Pike County, Illinois, situated on the farm previously owned by his grandfather William Montgomery Blair, where Albert lived until he was grown. His stepfather, Mr. James R. Williams, was an expert in farming and fruit growing. During the summer months Albert helped in farm and orchard work, but devoted most of his time to studies in public school, academy or college—three years at Christian University, Canton, Missouri; one year at Phillips Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire, and three years at Harvard, where he was graduated in 1863. Soon after graduation he was offered the position of tutor of Latin in the State University of Missouri at Columbia, Missouri. This he declined, to accept a clerkship in a freight office at Macon, Missouri. About four years later he was admitted to the bar in the Circuit Court at Macon, Missouri. In the meantime he served as secretary of a projected railroad enterprise, a line from Keokuk, Iowa, to Kansas City. In 1876 he quit Macon, came to St. Louis and began the practice of law, and continued the practice until 1922. In his younger days he was to some extent active in politics. At Macon he was for four years chairman of the Republican County Committee. In St. Louis he was the party candidate for State Senator in 1896. In his legal business he gave most attention to corporation matters. In 1907 Mr. Blair married Mrs. Clara Urquahrt Spencer, whom he lost by death in 1918. In 1923 he married Mrs. Susan

Norval Eddy of Denver, since which time he has discontinued the practice of law and devoted most of his time to travel.

George Blair.

George Blair was the seventh son of William Montgomery Blair and came with his parents to Pike County, Illinois. In due time he married Catherine Hughes. With his brother John he first located on the Des Moines River in Iowa. A year or two later they moved to Northwest Missouri. Uncle John departed for California. George decided to remain in Holt County, where he continued to live the rest of his life. He married Catherine Hughes. His sons were William Durbin, Irvine Lemuel, John H., Montgomery and George Harvey. His daughters were Angeline (born January 15, 1840), Sarah Martha, Irene Jane and Mary Catherine. William Durbin was born April 26, 1841, and was a soldier in the Civil War, first a private, then a first lieutenant, and finally a captain in Company B, Fourth Regiment, Missouri Cavalry, and as such took part in the Battle of the Blue near Independence, Missouri, October 23, 1864, and was killed while making a charge on the Confederate forces under General Sterling Price. Irvine Lemuel married Amanda Wise. He died a few years ago. Their sons were Ivan L., Charles A., William, John H., Montgomery and George Harvey. Ivan, with his wife, Lulu Galvin, lived for a time in Seattle. The present address I do not know. Charles A. for-

merly lived in Kansas City, Missouri, present address I do not know. William and his wife, Nell Wallace, live in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. John H. died without issue. Montgomery is dead. George Harvey died in 1921, and his family live in Sturgeon, South Dakota.

Angeline and her husband, Levy Patton, are both dead. Their children, Elizabeth Jane, Sarah Ellen and Benjamin, all live in California. Sarah Martha became the wife of McNulty. Melvin, a son, is a newspaper employe of the Kansas City Star. Their daughter Laura is dead. Their son George W. is employed in a drygoods company of Kansas City, Missouri. Irene is the widow of H. J. Parnell and lives with her sister Mary C., the widow of Sterling Murry, in Oakland, California.

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Uncle George Blair was married a second time, his second wife being Rebecca Poe.

The foregoing is based on a chart prepared several years ago by Irvine Blair and lately supplemented by notes of Mrs. Mary E. Pope of Kansas City, Missouri.

In compilation of Blair biographical data I am under obligation to Mrs. Mary E. Pope of Kansas City, Miss Mollie C. Palmer of Craig, Missouri, Mr. George M. Blair of Jacksonville, Illinois, and to Miss Lucina Blair of Barry, Illinois.

SUPPLEMENT.

Early in my investigations as to my paternal ancestry I was led to consider whether my great-grandfather John Blair was not a son of Alexander and Elizabeth Cochran Blair, a worthy and notable pioneer family. They had moved from Pennsylvania to Bourbon County, Kentucky, in 1784.

Alexander had been a soldier in the Revolutionary Army and had served in campaigns against the Indians. He had five sons, John, Thomas, William, Alexander and Benjamin. Alexander and Elizabeth, their son William and their son-in-law James Manara were among the first settlers at Cane Ridge in Bourbon County, Kentucky. John, their oldest son, went, prior to 1784, to settle in Kentucky. Thomas remained in Pennsylvania. John was born in 1756. In 1776 he was in Capt. Moses McLean's Company No. 26 of the Sixth Pennsylvania Battalion, commanded by Col. William Irvine, (See Pennsylvania Archives, Vol. 2, Series 5, page 216.)

In 1776 the Colonial armies invaded Canada in the hope of redeeming the failure to occupy Quebec as attempted by Montgomery and Arnold the preceding winter. On the 9th of June, 1776, the Battle of Three Rivers in Canada took place, resulting not only in failure but in the loss of a portion of the Sixth Pennsylvania Battalion. Colonel Irvine and about ninety of his men, a portion of them belonging to Captain McLean's Company, became separated from the main force and were captured, John Blair of McLean's com-

pany included. They were all sent to Quebec and held as prisoners.

It should be noted here that my ancestor, John Blair of Captain Hendrick's company, captured the previous winter, was a prisoner in Quebec at that time, and he was soon to be sent to New York on a prison ship for exchange.

The John Blair who was captured at Three Rivers and imprisoned at Quebec was in the spring of 1777 released by exchange. He returned to Pennsylvania and in July of that year re-enlisted in the Seventh Pennsylvania Infantry and was made second lieutenant of Captain Parker's company. He served until some time in 1779, when he resigned.

A few years ago, in one of my visits to Kentucky in search of data pertaining to my paternal ancestor, I learned of Miss Frances Blair, an aged maiden lady living in Flemming County, a few miles north of the town of Ewing. I decided to call upon her. Several of the well-known families of Ewing were related to her by family connection. Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Williams cheerfully consented to go with me. I had a very satisfactory interview. She was apparently enfeebled by age, but was ready and capable in a quiet way to answer all my questions concerning her ancestors and collateral relatives. She said she was the granddaughter of John Blair and Eleanor Hamilton, his wife, early pioneers in Flemming County. She showed me a Bible that belonged to her grandfather, John Blair. He died in 1830, one year before she was

born. He and his wife were buried in Andrews Burying Grounds near Flemmingsburg. Two cedar trees mark the place of their burial. I asked whether her grandfather had been a soldier. She answered: "Never heard that he had been."

At the time of my visit the question of whether my ancestor John Blair was related to the Blair-Cochrane family had not become important in my investigation, so I did not ask her for information pertinent to that issue.

Three years later some of my Blair relatives raised the issue: Was not John Blair, my ancestor, the son of Alexander and Elizabeth Cochrane Blair? At the outstart I thought he was. I find among my letters a copy of a reply to a letter from Mrs. Heistand Moore, who informed me that my John Blair was not the son of Alexander Blair, in which I expressed a feeling of disappointment.

I made further inquiry by letter of Miss Frances Blair. I asked her to give me the names of the brothers of her grandfather. She stated that they were William, Thomas, Alexander and Benjamin. I asked her to give me the names of her grandfather's children. She answered that they were Elizabeth, Isabella, Thomas, Sarah, Mary and John. It will readily be noted that the names of the brothers of her grandfather are the names of sons of Alexander and Elizabeth Cochrane Blair as obtained from other authoritative sources. As to the names of his children, it is reasonable to presume that in naming his daughter

Elizabeth he intended to honor his mother, Elizabeth Cochrane, and it is also presumable that in naming two of his sons Thomas and William that he intended to honor his brothers Thomas and William, sons of Alexander Blair.

My conclusion is that the John Blair of Flemming County was the oldest son of Alexander and Elizabeth Cochrane Blair. It follows, of course, that my great-grandfather, John Blair, was not the son of Alexander and Elizabeth Cochrane Blair, as some of my kindred have contended.

This conclusion is in harmony with the statement made by Morris William Blair in his letter to Miss Gertrude Blair, as set forth on page 15, in which he said that John Blair, brother of his grandfather William, had at the close of the Revolutionary War settled at Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) and for a time assisted emigrants down the Ohio River to Limerock, Kentucky; that later this John had settled at Flemming County, Kentucky, prior to 1784, the year that Alexander and Elizabeth Cochrane Blair settled at Cane Ridge, Kentucky.

Since I wrote the foregoing, I have discovered among my papers a letter from Mr. E. W. Blair of Joplin, Missouri, with which he enclosed a letter from Mrs. Heistand-Moore written in November, 1919. I insert here a copy of a portion of Mrs. Heistand-Moore's letter, being in confirmation of my conclusion that the John Blair of Fleming County was the eldest son of Alexander and Elizabeth Cochrane Blair:

"1708 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa.
November 19, 1919.

E. W. Blair, Esq.,
621 Moffit Avenue,
Joplin, Missouri.

My Dear Mr. Blair:

Perhaps you have not entirely forgotten my correspondence of three years ago relative to the Blair family history. I am still gathering data and have recently discovered something of interest in your line. You may remember that Morris William Blair of Kossuth, Iowa, made a great effort to discover the descendants of John Blair, oldest son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Cochran) Blair, who stayed in Kentucky. I find that there is living in Ewing, Fleming County, Kentucky, an old maiden lady, aged 88, Miss Frances Ann Blair, who is (I believe) Lt. John Blair's granddaughter. Anyhow, her grandfather was named John Blair and his wife was Elearnor Hamilton. Morris William Blair thought Lt. John married Elearnor Evans (sister to William's wife), but I find Capt. Thomas (who died in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1814) left a widow named Elearnor —and I think her maiden name was Evans, so that Morris William probably got the two Elearnors transposed. I obtained a Pension Office record showing that Captain Thomas Blair (1757-1814) left a widow and quite a family. After his death they went to Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, where his widow, Eleanor Blair, died in

1840. I will enclose the names and dates shown in the pension record sent me from Washington, D. C. I will also enclose the record sent by Miss Frances Blair out of the John Blair Bible. Miss Frances was born in 1831, one year after Lt. John's death, so she never knew him. But the identity of his line is proven by the following testimony:

1. Her grandfather John Blair had brothers William, Alexander, Thomas and Benjamin.

2. One of these brothers went to Barren County, Kentucky. (Morris William said Alexander, Jr., went to Barren County, Kentucky.)

3. She never saw any of her grandfather's relatives except two nephews. (N. B.—They had all moved away.)

4. About 1839-1840 two brothers, David and Alexander Blair, cousins of her father, came from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Kentucky to see about some land they had a claim against. They went away and she never saw them again and was too young to remember the transaction. (N. B.—Capt. Thomas had, among others, sons David and Alexander, and Alexander, Sr.—who was your ancestor—had 4,000 acres in Kentucky surveyed for him in 1798 [court record], which was the year before his death. Very likely David and Alexander, sons of Thomas, came down to dispose of their share in this land.)"

Alexander Blair died in 1778. He was buried in a graveyard situated at the Hinkston forks of the Lick-

ing River in Bourbon County, Kentucky. In my first visit to Bourbon County, eight years ago, I tried to find his grave. The few gravestones visible were nearly all displaced or broken. The grass, weeds, briars and other wild growth were so dense that I concluded that further search was impracticable. If the descendants of Alexander Blair (many of them, I believe, are of ample means) will unite in clearing a suitable plot of ground in that old graveyard, and in placing thereon a large block of granite with the name of Alexander Blair enscribed upon it, they may save his name from oblivion for many years to come.

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